REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Takeda, U.S. Patent 5,845,057. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other and dealing with image data; an interface connected to a network; and a bus changer which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface."

Takeda shows a network print system in Fig. 1. The system shown in Fig. 1 includes a plurality of terminals C1 and C2, printing apparatuses P1 and P2, and a digital copying machine D2 connected to each other through a network (col. 5, lines 25-29). Fig. 3 shows the digital copying machine and Fig. 4 is a schematic block diagram of the structure of the digital copying machine control system. The Examiner asserts that the claimed interface is shown in Fig. 4 of Takeda as element 307. Col. 9, lines 2-4 reveal that the data control portion 307 controls data transference when data is transferred between the page memory 323 and the other apparatuses through the image bus 320. However, it is noted that all of these elements are within the digital copying machine D2, and thus the data control portion 307 does not actually interface with the terminals C1 and C2 or the printing apparatuses P1 and P2. Thus, even if element 308, which the Examiner asserts corresponds to the claimed bus changer, was connected to the interface 307, the bus changer will not change bus connections among the rest of the functions blocks C1, C2, P1, P2 because the interface 307 is not actually connectable to the other function blocks. Thus, the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Takeda.

Claims 2-7 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 8 recites "wherein said memory comprises a management table which manages the application programs stored therein."

The Examiner asserts that Takeda teaches a management table which manages the application programs stored therein (citing col. 5, line 58 to col. 6, line 2). However, at col. 10, line 54 to col. 11, line 27, Takeda discloses that the document management table includes a document ID, a pointer to document data, receiving data and time, a user address, etc. This document management table does not manage application programs, but rather manages actual documents which are designated to be printed. It does not relate in any way to application programs. Thus, the features of claim 8 are not taught or suggested by Takeda.

Claim 9 is allowable for the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 10-12 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 13 recites the features discussed above in connection with claim 1, which are not disclosed or suggested by Takeda. Claim 13 also recites a memory having a function management table to manage executable functions. The Examiner considers that the document management table of Takeda corresponds to the claimed function management table. However, as addressed above, the document management table manages the documents to be printed, and ***not*** executable functions. Thus, the features of claim 13 are not taught or suggested by Takeda.

Claims 14-15 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 16 recites "receiving a request to perform a function; deciding whether the function is executable in said image processor; and changing bus connection between a necessary function block and said interface to operate an external apparatus connected through an interface connectable to said network when the function is decided not executable in said image processor."

The Examiner addresses claims 9 and 16 in the same paragraph in the outstanding Action. However, the Examiner fails to address the specific limitations of claim 16 in this paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner does not point out where Takeda discloses deciding whether the function is executable in said image processor and changing bus connection between a necessary function block and said interface to operate an external apparatus connected through an interface

connectable to said network when the function is decided not executable in said image processor. As stated above, Takeda shows a plurality of apparatuses connected to a network and an interface and bus in one of those apparatuses which transmits data to another of the apparatuses. However, Takeda is limited to a transfer of data and does not discuss anything relating to an executable function, deciding whether the function can be executed in a particular function block and changing the bus connection between a necessary function block and said interface to operate an external apparatus connected through an interface. Thus, the features of claim 16 are not taught or suggested by Takeda.

Claim 17 is allowable for the same reason claim 8 is allowable. Claim 18 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 16.

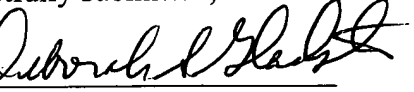
The Examiner has failed to address the features of claim 19 in the Action. However, Applicants submit that claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772008700.

Dated: June 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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